



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/829,311

04/20/2004

Christopher Rathweg

249212026300

5676

25226 7590 01/03/2007
MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP
755 PAGE MILL RD
PALO ALTO, CA 94304-1018

EXAMINER

RENNER, CRAIG A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2627

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
--	-----------	---------------

3 MONTHS

01/03/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/829,311	Applicant(s) RATHWEG ET AL.	
	Examiner Craig A. Renner	Art Unit 2627	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 October 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 10-22 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 April 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>14 May 2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of "claims 1-9" (Group I) in the reply filed on 13 October 2006 is acknowledged. Accordingly, claims 10-22 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to one or more non-elected inventions/species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to because of the following informalities:

a. The drawings failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include one or more reference signs mentioned in the description. Note, for instance, "107" (disclosed as a "cartridge reel" in line 8 of paragraph [0018] on page 4, for instance).

b. The drawings also fail to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include one or more reference signs not mentioned in the description. Note, for instance, "D1" (shown in FIGS. 4A, 5A, 6A and 7A, for instance), "111a" (shown in FIGS. 4A, 5A, 6A and 7A, for instance), "111c" (shown in FIGS. 4C, 5C, 6C and 7C, for instance), "111d" (shown in FIGS. 4D, 5D, 6D, 7D and 9B, for instance), "W2" (shown in FIGS. 6A and 7A, for instance) and "T3" (shown in FIG. 7A, for instance).

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) and/or an amendment to the specification in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in

reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

3. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it is not "within the range of 50 to 150 words." Appropriate correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

4. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informality:

In line 3 of paragraph [0021] on page 5, "front wall 220" should be changed to --front wall 210-- in order to be consistent with the remainder of the disclosure.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Art Unit: 2627

6. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

a. In line 10 of claim 1, "the receiver flag" is indefinite because it lacks clear and/or positive antecedent basis.

b. Claims 2-9 inherit the indefiniteness associated with independent claim 1 and stand rejected as well.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8. Claims 1-3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ozawa (US 5,067,036).

Ozawa teaches a data drive comprising a drive base (includes 5 and 5' , for instance); a receiver (3) for receiving a storage media device (2), the receiver being movably coupled to the drive base and translatable from an unloaded position (FIGS. 2 and 4, for instance) to a loaded position (FIGS. 3 and 5, for instance); a media flag (31) movably coupled to the receiver and translatable from a first position to a second position when the storage media device is inserted into the receiver (lines 9-17 in

Art Unit: 2627

column 5, for instance); a media flag sensor (33) fixedly coupled to the drive base for detecting movement of the receiver flag (line 60 in column 4 thru line 8 in column 5, for instance); a receiver flag (9, for instance) fixedly coupled to the receiver; and a receiver flag sensor (includes 26, for instance) fixedly coupled to the drive base for detecting movement of the receiver flag [as per claim 1]; wherein the data drive further comprises a read head for reading data from a tape contained in the storage media device (lines 12-13 in column 1, for instance, i.e., the abbreviation "VTR" stands for Video Tape Recorder and in order for it to be capable of "reproducing" it must have a read head) [as per claim 2]; wherein the receiver receives a storage media device comprising a tape cartridge (line 13 in column 1 and line 17 in column 7, for instance, i.e., the abbreviation "VTR" stands for Video Tape Recorder) [as per claim 3]; and wherein the data drive further comprises a drive controller coupled to the media flag sensor and the receiver flag sensor for receiving sensor signals from the media flag sensor and the receiver flag sensor (lines 42-44 in column 4, for instance) [as per claim 5].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of

Art Unit: 2627

the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

11. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozawa (US 5,067,036).

Ozawa teaches the data drive as detailed in paragraph 8, supra. Ozawa, however, remains silent as to the data drive further comprising "a lock release member coupled to the receiver and positioned to release a reel lock of a compatible storage media device and to prevent full insertion of an incompatible storage media device."

Official notice is taken of the fact that it is notoriously old and well known in the art to have a data drive further comprise a lock release member coupled to a receiver and positioned to release a reel lock of a compatible storage media device and to prevent full insertion of an incompatible storage media device in the same field of endeavor for the purpose of enabling reel rotation only during storage media device use while preventing data drive damage from incompatible storage media devices. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have had the data drive of Ozawa further comprise a lock release member coupled to the receiver and positioned to release a reel lock of a compatible storage media device and to prevent full insertion of an incompatible storage media device. The rationale is as follows:

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to have had the data drive of Ozawa further comprise a lock release member coupled to the receiver and positioned to release a reel lock of a compatible storage media device and to prevent full insertion of an incompatible storage media device since such enables reel rotation only during storage media device use while preventing data drive damage from incompatible storage media devices.

Pertinent Prior Art

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. This includes Mihara et al. (US 5,032,939), Ooka et al. (US 5,239,427), and Nishimura et al. (US 5,390,057), which each individually teaches one or more storage media cartridge detecting arrangements.

Allowable Subject Matter

13. Claims 6-9 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Craig A. Renner whose telephone number is (571) 272-

Art Unit: 2627

7580. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Tuesday & Thursday-Friday
9:00 AM - 7:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoa T. Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-7579. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Craig A. Renner
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2627

CAR